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SOCKET NO: 203738US6

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TAKANORI NISHIMURA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: BASEHOAR, A.L.
SERIAL NO: 09/575,104 :
FILED: MAY 19, 2000 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2178
FOR: INFORMATION PROCESSING :
METHOD AND APPARATUS :

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#12

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Technology Center 2100

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Election Requirement stated in the Official Action dated March 2, 2004, Applicants in the above-identified patent application provisionally elect Group I, Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-34 and Claims 1, 8 and 15, which both the Applicants and Examiner agree are generic to all species.

The Election Requirement asserts that the application contains claims to distinct inventions. However, MPEP §803 states the following:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be of an overlapping search area.

Application Number 9/575,104
Reply to Office Action Dated March 2, 2004

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully **traverse** the Election Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

However, if the present Election Requirement is not withdrawn, examination on the merits of the Claims of Group I, and Claims 1, 8 and 15 is believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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